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Bowling Green State University

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Thursday

April 02, 2009
Volume 103, Issue 129
www.bgviews.com

CAMPUS

The Final Stand to begin

Students participating in Humans vs. Zombies will face off tonight at 10:30 p.m. | **Page 3**

Canadian writer visits campus

Montreal native Monique Proulx spoke yesterday as the tenth speaker in the Pallister Francophone Canadian Lecture Series | **Page 3**

FORUM

Mercer Road incident enough reason for change

Despite the collision that gave a student pedestrian multiple injuries, columnist Josh Whetherholt is disgusted that city and University police aren't sure if stop signs or stoplights should be installed on Mercer Road | **Page 4**

Atheists, lead by example

Smirking, mocking and cursing at street evangelists won't help atheists gain respect from the religious, columnist Andrea Wadsworth says, but being respectful back will | **Page 4**

NATION

Flood waters rising along the Gulf Coast

Gulf coast community residents prepare for another round of rain as they eye the rising water levels | **Page 5**

SPORTS

Football in the springtime

Spring is here and with that comes the spring football practices. Although practices are only in the "drill stage" new coach Dave Clawson said things are progressing | **Page 6**

What do you think should be done to protect pedestrians on Mercer Road?



ALEX FRIESNER
Freshman, Business

"You're in college, not kindergarten. Look before you cross." | **Page 4**

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Casino issue back in the spotlight

By Austin Arnold
Reporter

Even though Issue 6 failed last November, one Ohio group is still interested in putting a casino within the state, in fact, more than one.

According to the Ohio Jobs and Growth Plan Web site, Ohio voters will have a chance to approve a state constitutional

amendment that will call for a casino to be built in the cities of Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo. The amendment, if passed, will also lead to \$1 billion in private investment, \$200 million in licensing fees, \$600 million annually in tax revenue and an estimated 20,000 more jobs.

The possibility of new jobs and economic growth through this proposed plan has some people

excited. One in particular is Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner.

Toledo Public Information Officer Jason Webber released a statement via e-mail concerning Finkbeiner's stance on the plan.

"Mayor Finkbeiner has been a staunch supporter of having a casino built on Toledo's waterfront, since it would undeniably create jobs and further make Toledo's waterfront the premier

entertainment destination of Northern Ohio," he said.

A casino in Toledo could also provide nearby entertainment for University students. Sophomore Pat Tiesling likes the idea.

"Yeah, I would probably make a couple of trips up [to Toledo] if there was a casino. It wouldn't be a regular thing, but I would go. With the economy the way it is, if it brings jobs, I don't think it

would hurt and it could warrant a spike in revenue," he said.

However, some are not in favor of a casino being built so close. Sophomore Clayton Meyer believes the negatives a casino brings to a community outweighs the positives.

"I agree that a casino could

See **CASINO** | Page 2

Connecting the dots of psychology



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY RACHEL RADWANSKI | THE BG NEWS

University professor expert on spirituality and mental health

By John Payne
Reporter

Kenneth Pargament is a busy man.

Between teaching his two classes, his research, his countless interviews and his never-ending duties as a husband and father, the psychology professor was recently named the editor-in-chief of the American Psychological Association's first handbook on the involvement of religion and spirituality in psychology.

Studying the relationships between spirituality and mental health has been Pargament's calling card since he first came to the University in 1979. Over the past three decades, he has watched the world of psychology evolve to the point where he is one of the foremost experts in his field. When the BBC, USA Today or The New York Times need an authority, they call Pargament.

Even before he earned his doctorate degree from the University of Maryland, he yearned to learn what makes people tick. He still remembers the bleak, behavioristic view of human nature that prevailed when he entered the field. And he still disagrees with it.

"It used to be that few people were interested," he said. "They were the kind of people who didn't mind being obscure. But that

"The field is getting more attention from universities and around the world in general."

Kenneth Pargament | Professor

has changed a lot. The field is getting more attention from universities and around the world in general."

Pargament humbly hinted that his own research has made quite an impact on the subject. Among the dozens and dozens of books lining the shelves of his office are several that he published himself: "Spiritually Integrated Psychotherapy: Understanding and Addressing the Sacred," "Forgiveness: Theory, Research, Practice" and "Religion and Coping: Theory, Research, Practice." By his own count, he has also published over 175 articles during his tenure at the University.

With all this international attention and scholarly acclaim, why doesn't Pargament move on to a larger, more prestigious uni-

See **PROFESSOR** | Page 2



FAME: Former University student Derrick Jones poses with "Law and Order: SVU" star Manska Hargitay.

University alumnus to head to Cannes Film Festival

By Stephanie Spencer
Reporter

People like Derrick Jones were born to make ordinary humans, mere mortals, feel guilty for taking naps in the afternoon.

At 31, Jones has his master's degree from the University, has published four books and as of this May, will be fraternizing with the glitziest names in show-biz at the Cannes Film Festival in France.

"I like to be busy," Jones said. Indeed.

Now enrolled at Ohio University to pursue film, Jones had the idea to enroll in the American Pavilion

Student Film Program when he saw another classmate glancing over the pamphlet a few minutes before class.

"I could do that," Jones remembers thinking.

The pamphlet boasted "participating in educational workshops, seminars, pitch sessions and round-table discussions" with people like Spike Jonze, Michael Moore and Jude Law.

After finishing the application filled with essay questions, recommendations and resumes, Jones was

See **JONES** | Page 2

MISSION POSSIBLE FOR STUDENTS



KATE SNYDER | THE BG NEWS

CELEBRATING SERVICE: George Rice was the keynote speaker at the annual TRIO Colleague Services awards banquet. TRIO includes a set of programs and scholarships geared to assist students with limited income through college and graduate school by granting aid, tutoring and advising.

Senior theater major to act in last musical 'Into the Woods'

By Allison Borgelt
Reporter

Senior Cory Stonebrook will go on stage, "Into the Woods" and out of the Department of Theatre and Film this Sunday, when he acts during the final performance of the musical directed by doctoral candidate David Sollish.

Stonebrook, who plays the lead role of the Baker, has participated in nine University

productions prior to "Into the Woods," and this weekend will be his last time acting on the main stage.

For all his experience, Stonebrook didn't start out as a theater major. After beginning his college career as a film student, Stonebrook started his route to a theater major when Michael Ellison, associate professor in Theatre and Film and faculty advisor for "Into the Woods," saw him standing by

an audition list for "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." Stonebrook said Ellison asked if he was going to audition, and he ended up doing so.

"My love for theater just kind of slowly came back," Stonebrook said.

Stonebrook said he had always wanted to act in a production of

See **PLAY** | Page 2



CHRISTINA MCGINNIS | THE BG NEWS

PERFORMANCE: Students Jackie Jerlecki, Ellie Messinger, Jimmy Wilson and Ashley Brown perform a scene from "Into the Woods," showing this weekend in the Eva Marie Saint Theatre.

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BLOTTER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

1:15 A.M.

Joseph Flores, 45, of Bowling Green, was arrested for disorderly conduct while intoxicated after he was found passed out in the grass and unable to care for himself.

1:49 A.M.

Michelle Lawrence, 20, of Bowling Green, was arrested for theft and underage drinking after he walked behind the bar at Ziggy Zomba's and grabbed a \$27 bottle of liquor and attempted to walk out the door.

2:13 A.M.

Melissa Rausch, 21, of Bowling Green, and Jillian Petz, 21, of Strongsville, Ohio, were arrested for burglary after entering a residence on North Enterprise Street without the resident's permission.

2:49 A.M.

William Schaaf, 19, of Eaton, Ohio; Joshua Dilcreti, 18, of Uniontown, Ohio; and Sean Kelly, 19, of Liberty Township, Ohio, were cited for disorderly conduct and underage drinking after all subjects were observed fighting while intoxicated.

ONLINE: Go to bgviews.com for the complete blotter list.

CORRECTION POLICY

We want to correct all factual errors. If you think an error has been made, call The BG News at 419-372-6966.

CASINO

From Page 1

create jobs, but I think it would create a lot of problems as well. In areas with casinos, you see a lot more crime and things like that," he said.

The proposed constitutional language has been sent to State Attorney General Richard Cordray. If he approves, the Ohio Jobs and Growth Committee can start collecting signatures so the issue can be placed on the November ballot.

"Overall I think it would help the economy," Tiesling said. "It might take some time to see a benefit because people aren't spending money right now. I would definitely look into voting for it though."

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JONES

From Page 1

notified that he was guaranteed a spot among the 150 the program accepts every year.

But there's a slight snag. The internship is unpaid. It's also across the world.

Plane fare and spending money are left up to the individual and could mean between \$6,000 to \$8,000 out of Jones personal piggy bank.

To help with some of the costs, Jones hosted a movie night at the Cla-Zel on March 21. Showing his own films, like the short documentary "631," a story about his childhood home, or even acting in "Big Black Good Man," a movie he made last year.

It was a "modest, respectable crowd" Jones said, and helped to raise "a couple hundred dollars" towards the daunting expenses of his trip.

And he's no stranger to the film festival scene.

Short documentaries have been his forte since leaving Bowling Green and "631" has been in front of audiences across the country. Featured in the San Diego Black Film Festival, the Texas Black Film Festival and the Langston Hughes African American Film Festival, Jones insists his films are not solely

"It's a personal story, not necessarily a black person's story."

Derrick Jones | Former student

for a black audience.

"I didn't make it to be a black film for black film festivals," he said. "It's a personal story, not necessarily a black person's story."

In France, Jones can put what he's learned all these years of college and in the real world to good use. He knows he probably won't be the next Steven Spielberg, but some of Spielberg's colleagues may be at the festival this year and could even be watching one of his films in the Short Film Corner in an area just outside of the tents where fame seems to seep through the cracks.

In the meantime, he's working on a full length documentary about the Lucasville riots of 1993 and networking full time.

He scored the movie night at the Cla-Zel from help from one of his fraternity brothers and his recommendation for the film program from his former advisor and Assistant Dean of Students Deb Novak.

"I'm still connected to BG in a lot of ways," he said.

PROFESSOR

From Page 1

versity?

"BGSU's program is really a hidden gem," he explained. "Well, maybe not anymore. There's such a great program here that people have begun to notice. This University is one of the main centers for this kind of study."

The fact that his wife is a therapist based in Toledo might have kept him around as well, but Pargament praised the University as being incredibly receptive even when many institutions were not.

Some of his most renowned work involves the ways in which people use religion to cope with major life stresses. These studies stirred up controversy when they suggested that a reliance on a higher power did seem to help reduce mental turmoil in dire situations. Though they weren't the first of their kind, Pargament defended the neutrality of the studies.

"People are just so passionate about the topic," he said. "Atheists are passionate about being atheist, and devout individuals are equally passionate about their own faith. Where there's emotion there's power. What makes the difference is for people to try to

digest these findings. There are many curious but skeptical people out there, and that group is growing. There is no complete neutrality when it comes to religion. But what guides our research is curiosity. We're open to whatever there is to learn. We make sure to avoid overly simple statements."

Pargament's own spirituality admittedly influences his work, but his Jewish faith is balanced out by the opposing perspectives of his colleagues, such as psychology professor Annette Mahoney.

Another important project under Pargament's supervision is the first major study of the role of religion in the family. As part of the research, Pargament and his colleagues are keeping in touch with 175 pregnant couples through the first year after giving birth.

The only real problem he has might seem like a blessing to most: "My biggest challenge is how to choose between so many interesting things," he confessed. "There's just too much to get at. This is such a new area of study, and the more we learn the more there is to learn. I get overwhelmed sometimes. But there are a lot worse situations to be in," he added with a laugh.

It sounds like he's more than capable of coping.

HAVE A WITTY OR FUNNY CAPTION FOR THIS PHOTO?



BG NEWS FILE PHOTO

YOUR CAPTION HERE: Submit your caption to captioncontest@bgviews.com or at bgnews.com for your chance to have your photo and your caption appear in next Thursday's issue of The BG News. Be sure to include your contact information to be considered for the contest. Winner will be selected by The BG News.

PLAY

From Page 1

"Into the Woods."

"Into the Woods" has been one of my favorites for a while," he said. "I've always wanted to be in it. I always wanted to play this role, but I thought I was too young."

Stonebrook said his character, the Baker, has to "go into the woods to break a spellcast by a witch who lives next door." He and his wife have to collect Cinderella's slipper, Jack's cow (of Jack and the Beanstalk), Little Red Riding Hood's cape,

and Rapunzel's golden hair and give them to the witch so they can have their happily ever after and have a child.

The musical shows the side of fairy tales that audiences rarely see: what happens after happily ever after. The show, which was originally directed on Broadway by James Lapine and showcases music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, mixes the experiences of many fairy tale characters and explains that granted wishes come with a cost, according to the department Web site.

"There's a great message that the audience gets through the story," Sollish said. "There are consequences to your actions, and sometimes when you get your wish, it's not always for the best."

Sollish said he knew Stonebrook would be a good choice for the lead role, partly because Sollish had played the Baker, and he saw similarities between himself and Stonebrook.

"He just has a vulnerability that the Baker needs. He's very honest in his acting," Sollish said. "Honestly, when I played the part back when I was his age ... a lot of what I saw in myself, I see in him in this part."

Stonebrook's fellow senior cast members also had good things to say about him.

"Cory's just the sweetest man, and he's one of the easiest actors I've ever had to work with," said Kelly Rogers, who plays the Stepmother. "He's a catch for any theater person

who wants him in their show."

Tommy Thurston, who plays Jack, said he will miss working with Stonebrook and the other seniors.

"It's overwhelming because I'm sad because it's our last show together, and I'm happy because I feel honored to work with them for one last time," Thurston said. "It's going to be an awesome experience doing a show with them one last time."

Holly Blinn, the Witch in "Into the Woods," said she will also miss performing with Stonebrook and Thurston.

"It's kind of hard to think that I may never be performing with them again," Blinn said.

Stonebrook's goal is to be an actor in either Chicago or New York. He will be acting in a couple of callback auditions in Chicago within the next couple of months, and he will hear the results of an audition at the West Virginia Public Theater sometime this month.

Stonebrook said he's glad his last performance is "Into the Woods."

"It's a challenge ... but it's taught me so much about being an actor and gaining endurance as a performer," he said. "It's been a positive experience. I'm glad it's my last one. It's a good one to leave on."

"Into the Woods" starts tonight at 8 p.m., and additional performances will be April 3 and 4 and 8 p.m. and April 4 and 5 at 2 p.m. in the Eva Marie Saint Theatre.

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TIME ON HIS HANDS



BEN LOHMAN | THE BG NEWS

STUDY TIME: Silhouetted in front of a beautiful April day, senior Jakim Collins takes some time to enjoy the scenery while studying for a test. The Hiroko Nakamoto Clock Tower is an isolated location for students to study and overlook the campus.

GET A LIFE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some events taken from events.bgsu.edu

8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Exhibit #11: BFA Senior Thesis Exhibit
Union Gallery Space

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Alicia's Voice: Citizens Against Domestic Violence
Union Lobby

3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Human Resources Awards
Union 202

3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

NWO/COSMOS Collaborative Council
246 Math/Science Bldg.

French Canadian writer reads excerpt from new book

Montreal native Monique Proulx 'a woman with an incredible curiosity about life'

By Kyle Reynolds
Senior Reporter

Francophone Canadian
Lecture Series.

French Canadian screenwriter and novelist Monique Proulx has drawn inspiration from city life for many of her works, but for her latest novel she is drawing inspiration from the country.

Last night, Proulx read excerpts from her most recent book "Champagne," translated into English as "Wildlives."

She spoke at the University as a part of the Pallister

Proulx is the tenth speaker in the series, which aims to educate students about Francophone culture, said Christine Drennen, interim director of the Canadian Studies Program.

"The purpose [of the series] is to bring another culture into our campus community and we hope for people to gain from this

See **WRITER** | Page 5

Battle between Humans, Zombies to reach grand finale tonight

By Michelle Olmstead
Reporter

Students darting from building to building, clad in green bandannas and sporting Nerf guns are hard to ignore anywhere. Although this has been a common sight on campus within the past week, the end is drawing near as the Final Stand between Humans and Zombies will commence at 10:30 p.m. tonight.

For students still baffled by the peculiar behavior of their peers, this is all a part of an official student organization called BG Undead. "Humans vs. Zombies," in a nutshell, is an elaborated version of tag that takes place once a semester.

However, it is clear it is no ordinary game of tag.

According to the BG Undead Web site, "All players start off as humans, with the exception of a set number who have volunteered, and are chosen to be Original Zombies. The Zombies will start the 'infection' by tagging, or 'feeding' on members of the Human team. The Zombies must tag a Human at least once



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MICHELLE OLMSTEAD | THE BG NEWS

UP AGAINST THE WALL: Alex Wilson, a Zombie, poses with Erik Beriel, a Human.

every 3 days, otherwise they 'starve-out,' and are then out of normal game play."

Humans may defend themselves from Zombies with approved equipment. Nerf-style foam blasters, PVC blowpipes with soft foam darts, balled-up socks and marshmallows all fall under the category of approved equipment.

Players must also wear a current BG Undead bandanna either on their head (Zombies) or around their arm or ankle (Humans.) Staircases, buildings

and loading docks are among the "safe-zones" where neither team can be stunned.

BG Undead President Landon King, sophomore, is currently on the Human team. Experiencing reactions from both sides of the spectrum, King takes student comments with a "grain of salt."

"We've had, actually, a pretty decent mix of good comments and bad comments," King said. "I know in semesters past, we've

See **UNDEAD** | Page 5

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Fall 2009 Registration

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1. select > student center
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3. enroll in classes

REGISTRATION START DATES

March 16 > Graduate Students
March 18 > Non-Degree Graduate Students
March 24 > Seniors
March 26 > Juniors
April 7 > Sophomores
April 9 > Freshman
April 13 > Guest Students

A new registration system is in effect for Fall 2009. You can access everything that you need, including tutorials, via the new "Student Center" at the MyBGSU portal.

Questions? Call the Registration Hotline at 419-372-4444 from 8am to 5pm Monday - Friday

BGSU
Office of Registration and Records
110 Administration Building

"People are just so passionate about the topic. Atheists are passionate about being atheist, and devout individuals are equally passionate about their own faith. Where there's emotion there's power."
— Kenneth Pargament, University professor, [see story, pg. 1].

Thursday, April 2, 2009 4

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

What do you think should be done to protect pedestrians on Mercer Road?



"Sidewalks on both sides on the road because cars don't drive on them."
NATASHA LEE,
Sophomore,
Education



"I think they should have a spotlight because it would help pedestrians."
CYNDIE EKEY,
Freshman,
Education



"I think that once you turn 50 you should have to retake your driving test."
JAZMINE BYRD,
Sophomore,
Geography



"Put an actual spotlight or put a crossing guard to give them right of way."
JAMES CHEFFEN,
Freshman,
Psychology

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Have your own take on today's People On The Street? Or a suggestion for a question? Give us your feedback at bgviews.com.

Some action should be taken after pedestrians hit on Mercer Road



JOSH WHETHERHOLT
COLUMNIST

Earlier this week, The BG News ran a story about Evan Dietsch, a University freshman, who was struck by a car while trying to cross Mercer Road with his girlfriend Lindsay Blosser and his roommate. Despite setting off the blinking lights at the crosswalk to indicate a pedestrian crossing, the driver still either didn't see Dietsch and company or wasn't paying enough attention to avoid striking him.

However, according to a representative of the Bowling Green Police Department, this one accident, almost killing a student, won't be enough to change anything on Mercer. I say, why the hell not? How many students is it going to take getting run down before something as simple as stop signs or stop lights being installed will happen? Will it simply take someone getting hit and dying from their injuries before this is taken seriously?

Dietsch was crossing Mercer and, after seeing the car was not slowing down, pushed Blosser out of the way, leaving her virtually unscathed with only bruised tendons in her foot. Dietsch took the main brunt of the car, a Buick driven by a 67-year-old man, knocking him 20 to 30 feet away. This knocked out Dietsch's teeth, broke his jaw and nose and gave him a minor concussion as well as took a chunk out of his right foot after his shoe came off.

The driver was later charged simply with a failure to yield and given a \$120 fine. I'm not here to demonize the driver, but a \$120 fine is all he got? I've had speeding tickets that cost more, and that was without smashing someone's face into concrete after hitting them with my vehicle. Either I got taken for the proverbial ride, or this driver got off fairly easily.

If you've ever driven down Mercer after dark, you know it's difficult to see pedestrians trying to cross and the blinking yellow lights don't do much to help. In fact, I think often times people crossing on Mercer who use the yellow lights simply rely on the lights to protect them from drivers, which doesn't entirely make sense. If a car is coming at me, I'm not going to assume he sees me and keep meandering my way across, I'm going to get the hell out of the way.

I myself have come close to hitting people on Mercer simply

"A stop sign or set of lights would really make a difference and, if set in place earlier, could have prevented what happened to [Evan] Dietsch."

because it's so hard to see on that road. A stop sign or set of lights would really make a difference and, if set in place earlier, could have prevented something like what happened to Dietsch. This would help primarily at night when pedestrians are harder to see by drivers, but this would also help during the day.

Students and other people are trying to get across the street with cars and buses taking up all four lanes of the street, making it virtually impossible to cross at all. It really is a wonder an accident of this nature didn't happen earlier.

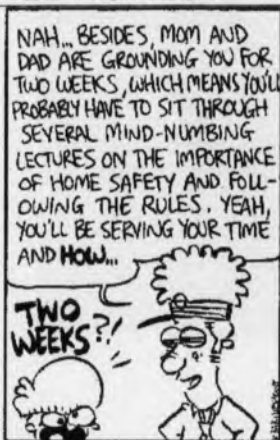
Not only would putting stop signs or stop lights on Mercer help pedestrians have a better chance of crossing the street without major injury, it would be easier on traffic as well. Trying to pull out onto Mercer or turn off it in the middle of the afternoon is such a headache I have started to avoid it completely by just going the long way to or from class. If stop signs were added and cars didn't just have to dart out in front of other cars to get on the street it would be better for everyone.

Something beyond just blinking yellow lights at crosswalks needs to be placed on Mercer to make drivers take notice, slow down and give students a fairer, safer chance to cross the street. Stop signs or lights would be extremely effective in this regard and would not only keep pedestrians safe, but would make things easier for drivers as well.

There is no reason the city or University should wait for another incident like what happened to Evan Dietsch before they take action and try to protect everyone using Mercer, whether they are driving or walking. To even make it seem like they are considering otherwise is appalling.

Respond to Josh at
thenews@bgnews.com

WALKING IS STILL HONEST



KEITH PAKIZ | THE BG NEWS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Last time I checked, pedestrians have the right of way

I was personally impacted by the story of Lindsay Blosser and Evan Dietsch being hit by a vehicle while crossing Mercer Road at the flashing yellow crosswalk lights. I have had several close calls at that crossing myself.

It seems as if drivers don't

know what to do with the yellow lights and simply sail on through ignoring pedestrians crossing the street. Repaving that road has simply made it more dangerous to those on foot.

I don't think this is just about making things better, it is about saving lives and keeping people safe as they travel on foot throughout campus.

Saying pedestrians should be cautious against a moving vehi-

cle is like making a victim feel culpable for an irresponsible act. Cars come around those corners with drivers on cell phones and at speeds that do not allow the most cautious person any option but to run out of their way and hope they can make it before being hit. I know from personal experience and I avoid having to walk across Mercer if at all possible.

Do we really have to wait for

someone to be killed before we put up a few stop signs or red lights instead of yellow ones that are currently proving to be ineffective? I can't be the only one who has had this experience on Mercer Road.

Kay Ulery, University grad student, REHB Counseling.
Respond to Kay at
thenews@bgnews.com



ANDREA WADSWORTH
COLUMNIST

If you have been at the University for a while you have heard or seen the religious people who preach outside the Union.

Sometimes they sing songs, sometimes they scream into a megaphone about how "Jesus loves me so much he's going to send me to burn in a fiery pit for all eternity unless I do what he says" and sometimes they pass out pamphlets.

I remember sitting in ecology class in the spring. The windows would be open and cries of "Repent!" would float in through the window. Lately, I've even been seeing large amounts of signage for various religious talks.

If a label had to be placed on me, I'd say I was an agnostic with strong atheist leanings. Does all this religious hubbub offend me? Not really. Honestly, even the article written several weeks ago in The BG News stating one couldn't be moral without God didn't offend me.

Truthfully, these "overzealous" types sadden me. I have to ask myself, do people have such little faith in humankind that they believe we would be hor-

"The best way to battle the rampant misunderstanding the religious have of atheists and agnostics is not to yell and swear at them, or call them stupid or delusional."

rible people without the existence of their private beliefs? Furthermore, do they really think shrieking into a megaphone and shoving pamphlets and Bibles into unwanted hands is going to help things?

These things irk me a little, but that isn't what I wanted to write about. Another atheist I know sent me a text message the other day. Apparently, people decided to gather near the religious group and yell, mock and swear at them. They were quite smug and satisfied with themselves. These are the same people who will complain about the lack of respect religions show to atheists. Gee, I wonder why?

The best way to battle the rampant misunderstanding the religious have of atheists and agnostics is not to yell and swear at them, or call them stupid or delusional. That simply reinforces their silly beliefs that we are not moral people, people who care about others and want to improve the world around us. We need to lead by example.

This is where being what I

call a "positive atheist" comes in. Instead of sitting on our "high intellectual horses," we need to get out there. There are so many Christian charities, why can't there be a group of atheists or secular individuals standing for community service and goodwill? I think this school would benefit from a free thinkers group, a place where the nonreligious or curious can express their opinions in safety and socialize.

The next time someone tries to yell at you through their megaphone, try to have an actual discussion with them. The next time you are approached with a "religious survey" and get stared blankly at when you tell them you don't believe in a God, start a conversation. Don't just tell them you feel their God is stupid. Be friendly and explain why you feel the way you do. Talking with the speaker will not worsen the atheist image.

I like to discuss moral values portrayed in the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. The amount of God-endorsed mass genocides present is truly stag-

gering. Do they really feel this is all right? If they don't, clearly their morals are superior to those of their God's.

Honestly, discussion might not get you anywhere, especially with fundamentalists. But, if you can make a good impression upon that person, they will remember that. I know not all religious individuals believe atheists are evil and immoral people. This doesn't mean they don't have a dim view of us, though.

If we can begin, person by person, to make a good impression upon them, perhaps there will eventually be less bias against atheists. It is often said that an "out" atheist would have great difficulty becoming elected to a government office in this country, and I believe it (I only know of one openly atheistic person in office). But if we start today, promoting positive atheism, perhaps one day this won't be the case.

Recall the words of former president George H.W. Bush: "I don't know that Atheists should be considered as patriots, nor should they be considered as Citizens." We need to change this horrible attitude today, and it starts with positive atheism.

Respond to Andrea at
thenews@bgnews.com

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FREDDY HUNT, EDITOR IN CHIEF

210 West Hall

Bowling Green State University
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

are generally to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are generally longer pieces between 400 and 700 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area. Two submissions per month maximum.

POLICIES:

Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

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Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the view of The BG News.

UNDEAD

From Page 3

had people say that they feel a lot safer with us running around on campus. Because I mean, regardless of how ridiculous we are, nobody's going to try to do anything illegal with a bunch of people out at night."

"And then of course, you'll get the occasional heckler yelling at us, 'You're not a real zombie!'" he added.

Senior Jovannah Harris-Johnson was shocked when she first saw the Nerf battles.

"I just think it's a bit odd on my daily stroll to class that there are people running around chasing each other with nerf guns," she said. "My first impression was, 'What the hell are they doing?'"

In the midst of the ongoing battle between Humans and Zombies, an odd sight to see was a pair of rival teamsters engaging in casual conversation. Chatting in front of Rodgers Quadrangle, Alex Wilson and Erik Bertel were in a "safe zone." They had much to say about the organization, without running the risk of attack.

Wilson, who is on the Zombie team, believes that BG Undead is a great way to socialize on campus.

"Students that normally don't go out or [are] good at being very social, they all of the sudden find new friendship because they have to ban together," Wilson said. "Everybody always gets phone numbers and we do stuff, like have pizza parties afterward. It's a fun time."

Though on the Zombie team, Wilson remains realistic about the Humans' chances of victory at the Final Stand.

"I honestly, personally, think that Humans are going to [win] because many of them have what's called an antidote around their wrist."

Wilson went on to explain that antidotes are a one-time immunity from a Zombie attack that are given as awards for missions throughout the

week.

"[The Humans'] normal tactic is to mob up in huge groups," Wilson continued. "So when you have 100 Nerf darts coming at you at once, and then you have two minute stuns... it's going to be tough, but we're going to try."

Senior Erik Bertel is currently on the Human team. In regard to the Final Stand, Bertel remains positive about the Humans' chances of survival.

"The Humans are more organized this semester within the missions on how to hold off the Zombie assaults... when they make a charge at us, it's easier to hold them off, and stun them all and lose no casualties," he said.

When asked what his preferred method of attack is, Bertel mentioned, "Nerf guns, running from building to building and if there's only like two or three Zombies, charge them because they run away."

"It's very stressful during the game, but it's also a week to unwind and just let loose. How often in college do you get to play with Nerf guns?" Bertel added.

King shed further light onto what the Final Stand will entail.

"What has to happen is the Humans are going to have to hold the location for a certain amount of time," he said. "Then they have to move to a second location that we tell them after that designated time period. Once that happens, whatever the Humans start off the mission with, they have to get a third of that number to that end location, otherwise the Zombies win."

"We have 132 Humans against 101 Zombies... we'll see how quick the tide turns," King said.

"The Humans are doing better this year than in semesters past," he said.

After an exhausting week of strategizing and stunning, the winning team will earn no physical award at the Final Stand. Right now, bragging rights are the only trophy for victory.



BROOKE MOTT | THE BG NEWS

DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES: Guest speaker, screenwriter and storyteller, Monique Proulx, gave a reading at Jerome Library as part of the Canadian Lecture Series in honor of Janis L. Pallister.

WRITER

From Page 3

understanding of the French experience in North America and maybe challenge typical beliefs and understandings," Drennen said.

The excerpts from "Wildlives" dealt with a wide range of topics from poisonous mushrooms to rape.

She drew her inspiration for this book on the summers she spends in the country outside of her hometown of Montreal.

"I love Montreal but I can't live there in the summertime," she said. "Summertime is an opportunity for me to look around."

Summer in the country is time for Proulx to connect with nature.

"Nature allows me to be alone and writing is a solitary activity," Proulx said. "It takes years for me to write a book and nature gives me the confidence to write the books."

Proulx really conveyed the pain of her characters during the reading, said Canadian Studies Instructor Peggy Cunneiffe.

"The purpose [of the series] is to bring another culture into our campus community ..."

Christine Drennen | Canadian Studies

THE BG NEWS SUDOKU								
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6								
2	1	9				5		3
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1	6		2					
	4	8		6				
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SUDOKO

To play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3 x 3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. There is no guessing or math involved. Just use logic to solve

2	7	1	4	6	8	9	3	5
9	6	8	7	5	8	1	2	4
4	5	8	2	9	1	6	7	3
5	2	4	9	1	6	8	7	3
6	8	7	5	8	2	4	9	1
1	8	9	6	7	4	2	5	3
8	9	5	8	4	7	6	1	2
8	4	6	1	2	5	7	9	3
7	1	2	6	8	9	5	4	3



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SIDELINES



FOOTBALL

Donte Stallworth facing big trouble, being charged with DUI Manslaughter

Last month in Miami, FL, Donte Stallworth of the Cleveland Browns struck and killed a pedestrian. It was later discovered that he was intoxicated at the time of the incident. On Monday he was charged with DUI Manslaughter.

ONLINE

The BG News Sports Blog

Be sure to log on to The BG News Sports Blog for continued coverage of your favorite Falcons sports teams. Visit the blog for continued updates on Dave Clawson's first go-around at spring football practice, and later in the week we'll have live blogs for softball and baseball.

www.bgnewssports.com

OUR CALL

Today in Sports History

1986—NCAA adopts 3-point basketball rule (19 feet 9 inch distance).

1977—Montreal Canadiens set NHL record of 34 straight home games without a loss.

The List

Today we're taking a look at the top five picks of the NFL Draft. Here's how we think the top five picks will look on April 24.

1. Matthew Stafford:

The Lions need everything, and a franchise quarterback is a good place to start. Assuming that's what Stafford really is. Trading the pick to Denver for Jay Cutler would also make a lot of sense.

2. Eugene Monroe:

The Rams lost Orlando Pace last season. To make matters worse, their quarterbacks spent the majority of their time on the ground a year ago. This big left tackle while not flashy, would be a step in the right direction.

3. Aaron Curry:

The Chiefs acquired their quarterback through free agency, now it's time to sure up the defense. This beast of an outside linebacker is a lot like Patrick Willis two drafts ago. All he's done is make two Pro Bowls and win Defensive Rookie of the Year honors.

4. B.J. Raji:

The Seahawks failed to put adequate pressure on the quarterback last season. Raji, a big defensive tackle, dominated at Boston College.

5. Everette Brown:

The Cleveland Browns will snag the appropriately named defensive end. With new coach Eric Mangini, a lover of the 3-4 defense, now in town, the Browns will need an off the edge pass rusher.



ETHAN MAGOC | THE BG NEWS

SUIT UP: The Falcons are back in action for spring practice, which started Monday. The annual Orange & Brown game is scheduled for April 25.

Back in action

Spring football practices underway for Clawson, Falcons

By Andrew Harner
Sports Editor

With the wind whipping across the football team's practice fields outside Doyt Perry Stadium, coach Dave Clawson said things are progressing.

While the team is still mostly in the "drill stage" of practice, there was some tackling during drills and a bit of scrimmaging.

In one drill where the offense makes a screen pass close to the end zone on the sideline while the defense tries to prevent the touchdown, the defense made 25 stops compared to the offense's nine touchdowns.

And while practice is the main focus of the team right now, there were still some loose ends regarding the team Clawson tied up.

Injury report
While there hasn't been any significant injuries during the

first four spring practices, there are still some lingering ones hampering a few Falcons.

Soon-to-be-senior offensive lineman Brady Minturn had a shoulder scope a few weeks ago and will be sitting out the spring season.

Minturn and Shane Steffy will be holding down the line after Brandon Curtis and Jeff Fink graduated.

Running back Jason Rice is still recovering from the knee injury he sustained during last season's game against Buffalo.

And while neither will partake in spring practice or the spring game, Clawson is hopeful both will be ready by the start of summer camp.

"We see no reason they won't be 100 percent for camp," Clawson said.

Ransom report
Running back Eric Ransom has been fighting hard follow-

ing a pair of knee injuries dating back to September 2007 when the initial injury occurred against Michigan State.

And while the rehab process has been long for Ransom, Clawson said the team is fighting to get him another year of eligibility, his sixth, from the NCAA.

Ransom is running and able to change direction, but he is not yet into football playing shape, and Clawson and the medical staff don't even know if Ransom will get back to football form.

Above the rest

While Clawson said there is a battle for the starting spot at all positions, as of now, soon-to-be senior Tyler Sheehan is the top quarterback.

"Tyler has clearly shown that he's ahead of the rest of them," Clawson said.

And with good reason; he has more experience.



AT BGNEWSSPORTS.COM: Be sure to log on to The BG News Sports Blog for a slideshow of spring football practice.

Sheehan has started the past two seasons for the Falcons and also played some as a freshman.

In total, Sheehan has passed for 6,006 yards and 43 touchdowns while rushing for 356 yards and 10 touchdowns.

His main competition in camp is from last season's backup Andrew Beam who runs the second-team offense in practice. Beam played in six games

See **FOOTBALL** | Page 7



KEITH SRAKOCIC | AP PHOTO

NOT YET: Dusty Baker and the Reds had a disappointing season last year. They'll look to compete this season, but might still be a year away.

Baker, Cincinnati getting set for 2009 season

Joe Kay
The Associated Press

SARASOTA, Fla. — Two red baseball caps hang from hooks on the side of the wooden locker. Three bats and a black equipment bag are stashed on the top shelf. A padded folding chair rests against the side panel.

This was Ken Griffey Jr.'s place. The locker that used to be the focal point in the Cincinnati Reds

spring clubhouse is now a storage space. No name above it. No uniforms inside. The locker — the last one in a row interrupted by a hallway to the trainer's room — was a magnet during the nine years Griffey spent with his hometown team, a reminder of what the Reds were all about.

Then, power. Now, pitching.

See **REDS** | Page 7

Indians could compete in AL Central



JEFF CHIU | AP PHOTO

LOOKING UP: After a disappointing 2008 campaign, Cliff Lee and the Cleveland Indians will look to compete in the division.

Cleveland Indians set for start of 2009 season

Tom Withers
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Across the plaza from LeBron James' home-court office, powerwashers blast winter's leftovers off the seats and corridors inside Progressive Field. With opening day approaching, the fabulous ballpark is being spruced up for another season.

Outside the gates, it's quiet. Real quiet. There's only one customer at

box office window No. 7, and after picking up an extra ticket for an April 10 game against Toronto, the longtime fan summed up how many Clevelanders are feeling about the Cleveland Indians and their chances of winning in 2009.

"It's going to be a show-me first attitude," said George Roth of Shaker Heights, a season-ticket holder for the past 15 years. "Right now, with the economy, it's LeBron and the Cavaliers. Then,

it's the Indians. I think after what happened last year, fans are a little more reticent."

As James and the Cavs take aim at a first NBA title and the Browns rebuild, the Indians, who grossly underperformed while going 81-81 last season, are getting minimal attention.

Maybe that's not such a bad thing. The club's trend in recent

See **INDIANS** | Page 7

Martinez, Indians have positive outlook on 2009

GOODYEAR, Ariz. (AP) — Victor Martinez whistled and laughed his way through batting practice, then jogged back to the Cleveland Indians' spring training clubhouse humming a salsa tune.

"It's not long until the season and everybody is happy and excited," the switch-hitting catcher said yesterday. "I love being with these guys, and we are ready to go and win games."

The Indians leave Arizona tomorrow. They will play two weekend exhibition games in Houston against the Astros and open the season Monday in Texas against the Rangers.

Martinez was particularly upbeat after seeing left-hander Juan Lara in uniform.

A year and a half ago, Lara nearly died in a Dominican Republic hospital. He had stopped his car at a traffic light on his way home from a winter league game in November 2007 when it was hit by a speeding motorcycle.

Lara incurred severe brain trauma, a fractured spine, two broken ribs, a broken arm and a punctured lung. Doctors kept him in a coma for weeks before fitting him with a halo vest to support his neck. He later had surgery on his spine and arm.

"Seeing him here makes you extra proud to be a Cleveland Indian," Martinez said. "This is the only organization I know, so I can't say about other teams. But people here care about every player."

"You always want to work hard and play good, but we all try a little extra because you want to do good for the people who are good to you."

Lara, a 28-year-old who made 10 relief appearances for the Indians in 2006-07, was signed to a minor-league contract.

THERE'S BEEN SOME CHANGES: Johnny Goryl marvels at the Indians' new training facilities.

With more than 25 years as a special instructor in Cleveland's spring camp, the still-limber 75-year-old said the team's new home is nothing like what he experienced as a young player in the late 1940s.

"My first spring training, we slept in a blanket underneath the grandstand," Goryl said. "Some guys slept in their uniforms, got up at sunrise and did some jumping jacks, then went out on the field."

"This place is like another world."

See **OUTLOOK** | Page 7

FOOTBALL

From Page 6

last season, making a 22-yard touchdown pass to Sheehan and rushing the ball 22 times for 108 yards.

Systemic approach

Clawson is keeping his new offensive system under wraps for the time being.

"We have an idea, but we'll be multiple," Clawson said.

When he was hired, Clawson said he didn't like to get married to a system and would utilize his best playmakers at any given time.

With strong players returning at receiver and running back, chances are multiple might be the proper adjective for his

offense.

No hard feelings

Linebacker Josh Scheidler left the team shortly after Clawson was hired because of an injury and to focus more on academics.

Scheidler would have likely been in the running to be a backup linebacker after the team lost two — John Haneline and Erique Dozier — to graduation.

Last season, Scheidler red-shirted due to that injury, and he played in five games during the 2007 season.

I love this town

Clawson said he's enjoyed the transition into Bowling Green from Tennessee.

"It's been a great transition," Clawson said. "People have been really friendly."

OUTLOOK

From Page 6

I love to watch these young guys get the chance to use all the state-of-the-art equipment and then go play."

RAPID REMEMBERS: Hall of Famer Bob Feller, 90, signs autographs at every Indians spring home game and often tosses the ball around on the minor-league fields.

Feller delights in telling about being in World War II, pitching to Babe Ruth and Ted Williams, meeting a dozen U.S. Presidents and baseball legends such as Cy Young and "Shoeless" Joe Jackson.

"I'm 90 years old, not 120," Feller cracked when asked if he had faced Jackson while barnstorming around America in the 1930s and 40s.

Jackson was banned from baseball for allegedly betting on the 1919 World Series in the "Black Sox Scandal." He played semipro ball into his late 40s and

died at age 62 in 1951.

"Never faced him, but I met him when I was 18," Feller said of Jackson. "He was working in a textile mill in Greenville, S.C., trying to make a living."

ON THE HORIZON: Former Indians third baseman Travis Fryman, manager of short-season Mahoning Valley, works each day with Lonnie Chisenhall.

"He's the best listener and best learner in camp," Fryman said of Cleveland's No. 1 draft pick in 2008.

Chisenhall, 20, is switching from shortstop to third base. Fryman made the same move in the majors, becoming an all-star at both spots.

"First off, he's a hitter," Fryman said. "He drives it to the opposite field. As he matures and learns to pull the ball, he will gain power, but I think he will combine that with a high batting average."

"In the field, he's adapted to third a lot faster than I expected."

Chisenhall is slated to play at Kingston, N.C., in the Class A Carolina League.

REDS

From Page 6

The Reds are trying to reinvent themselves without Griffey and slugger Adam Dunn, swapping long home runs for quality starts. They traded the prolific home run hitters last season and set a new course for a franchise that's had eight straight losing seasons.

"Oh, it's a 180-degree flip from what it was," top starter Aaron Harang said. "Since I've been here, that's how it's been: 'Let's try to get Dunn, Junior, (Austin) Kearns when he was here, let's try to get those guys up and let them hit the long ball.'"

Instead, they're trying to win in 2009 with their best starting rotation in 15 years, an offense that's trying to do more of the little things, and a lineup full of young players who could soon replace Griffey and Dunn as the face of the franchise.

It's a season of transition.

"We don't have the power, but the pitching's going to keep us in games and the offense is going to have to produce and not sit back and wait for that long ball," Harang said.

The rotation is a good start.

The foursome of Harang, Edinson Volquez, Bronson Arroyo and rookie Johnny Cueto all made at least 25 starts and had ERAs below 5.00 last season. That hadn't happened in Cincinnati since 1992, when the rotation included Jose Rijo, Tim Lincecum, Greg Swindell and Chris Hammond.

The Reds were contenders back then, winning the World Series in 1990 with a solid rotation and the Nasty Boys bullpen. They reached the NL championship series in 1995 before losing to Atlanta. Then, they fell off the map. They lost a one-game play-off for the NL wild card to the Mets in 1999, traded for Griffey before the 2000 season and made offense the overriding priority.

And all they did was lose.

For the first time since then, they've changed the emphasis. When teams talked about trades

in the offseason, they tried to pry one of the starters away. This time, the Reds didn't go along.

"That's big," manager Dusty Baker said. "The one thing that we did was we maintained our pitching. If we were going to make a deal, that's what they wanted — our pitching. And we like our pitching a lot. So I'm just glad that we got to keep everybody."

The rotation is the most dependable part of the team.

Harang put on weight, hurt his arm and went 6-17 last season, but has lost 33 pounds and looks to be back in form. Volquez went 17-6 and made the All-Star team in his first season since arriving in the trade for Josh Hamilton. Arroyo went 15-11 despite a flare-up of the carpal tunnel syndrome that has bothered him this spring. Cueto showed flashes of promise during a 9-win rookie season.

The offense is where it gets interesting.

Instead of Dunn and Griffey, the Reds will be relying on Joey Votto and Jay Bruce, both of whom got rookie of the year votes last season. Votto led all NL rookies with a .297 batting average; Bruce led the Reds with 15 homers after the All-Star break. They became the first pair of Reds rookies to hit at least 13 homers in the same season.

One of the main weaknesses last season was the lack of a consistent leadoff hitter. The Reds tried to fix that by signing center fielder Willy Taveras, who stole an NL-high 68 bases for Colorado last season but had only a .308 on-base percentage. When he got on base, he was dangerous. Trouble was, he didn't get on all that often.

Second baseman Brandon Phillips won his first Gold Glove last season, a year after he became the first Red at his position to hit 30 homers and steal 30 bases in a season. Third baseman Edwin Encarnacion hit a career-high 26 homers, but remained a streaky hitter and had a team-leading 23 errors, more than twice as many as anyone else.

INDIANS

From Page 6

years is to contend when no one expects it to. After winning 93 games in 2005, the Indians dropped to 78 wins in 2006. After winning 96 games and getting to the ALCS in 2007, the Indians slid to 81 wins last season.

Well, it's an odd-numbered year, and in the wide-open AL Central, manager Eric Wedge's squad is as good as any in the division.

"We definitely have the pieces we need to be successful," said catcher Victor Martinez, who will share duties behind the plate with Kelly Shoppach and play some at first. "I believe in this team. There are some players that maybe have not been noticed before and are going to step up. Without injuries, this is a very, very good baseball team."

It's also one with its fair share of question marks.

Except for Cy Young winner Cliff Lee, Cleveland's starting rotation is loaded with uncertainty. Right-hander Fausto Carmona, so dominant as a 19-game winner in '07, struggled with his control and missed a large chunk of last season with a hip strain. His weight raised some eyebrows this spring, but the 25-year-old's sinker seemed to be in much better shape.

After blowing their free-agent money on closer Kerry Wood (two years, \$20.5 million), the mid-market Indians couldn't afford a high-priced starter. However, they may have found a bargain-basement steal in Carl Pavano, who flamed out in New York and because of injuries has pitched just 45 innings the past three seasons. He'll be Cleveland's No. 3, as shaky a middle-of-the-rotation starter as you'll find in baseball.

The Indians were encouraged by Pavano's progress during camp, and they'll begin the season with Scott Lewis and Anthony Reyes in the Nos. 4 and 5 slots. If they struggle, help is

just a two-hour drive away at Triple-A Columbus, where left-handers David Huff, Jeremy Sowers and Aaron Laffey will be on call.

In fact, Cleveland has an abundance of young talent in the upper minors with outfield prospects Matt LaPorta and Michael Brantley, second baseman Luis Valbuena and third baseman Wes Hodges at the top of a class that gives the Indians a promising future.

"Every time I walk down to the minor league fields and watch them play, it reinforces the depth of talent we've got," general manager Mark Shapiro said. "I'm not prone to creating expectations in that area, but with the realities of our market, that's essential to how we conduct our business. It's talent we can build around for years to come."

This year's success, however, could hinge on designated hitter Travis Hafner bouncing back from an injury-ravaged 2008.

After batting just .197 in 57 games with a baffling right shoulder injury, Hafner underwent offseason surgery and insists he's healthy again. His swing isn't. During training camp, Hafner did not drive balls into the gaps the way he did a few years ago, when he was arguably the AL's most feared power hitter.

Shapiro remains optimistic Hafner will come around.

"I believe in the person and believe in the track record," Shapiro said. "Obviously, everything is not together right now. But we feel he's moving in the right direction, and that it's going to come together at some point soon."

If Hafner doesn't come back, Cleveland's offense, which scored a major league-leading 379 runs in the second half last season, should have enough firepower to sustain.

Leadoff hitter extraordinaire Grady Sizemore could become baseball's next 40-40 (homers-steals) club member as long as he doesn't break himself in half running into an outfield wall.

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Auto sales continue to decline

Bree Fowler
The Associated Press

DETROIT — March proved to be another dismal month of steep declines for U.S. auto sales as low consumer confidence and job uncertainty continued to keep buyers away from showrooms, but the improvement from February signaled that bargain-hunting buyers may be providing the momentum for a turnaround.

Automakers sold 857,735 light vehicles last month, a 37 percent decline from a year earlier, according to Autodata Inc.

General Motors Corp.'s sales fell 45 percent, while Ford Motor Co. reported a 41 percent drop. Sales at Chrysler, Toyota, Honda and Nissan were just a few points better.

Despite the declines from a year ago, GM, Ford, Chrysler and Toyota all posted double-digit improvements from February, when industrywide U.S. sales hit their lowest point in more than 27 years.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI | AP PHOTO

NO BUYERS: The company logo shines off the grille of an unsold 2009 Sierra pickup truck at a GMC Truck dealership in the south Denver suburb of Littleton, Colo.

Sales are generally better in March as warmer temperatures help drive people to showrooms, but industrywide U.S. sales increased 25 percent from February's figures, beating the typical increase of about 20 percent and giving rise to optimism that the worst may be over.

Mike DiGiovanni, GM's executive director of global market and industry analysis, said the market appears to be "bounc-

ing around the bottom."

Automakers' incentive spending last month reached a record high, according to the auto Web site Edmunds.com.

The average incentive on vehicles sold last month was \$3,169, up 30 percent from a year earlier. GM and Hyundai Motor Co. spent more on incentives than they ever have, Edmunds said. Ford said its incentive spending was the same as a year ago.

Blagojevich indictment expected soon

Mike Robinson
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — An indictment is expected as early as tomorrow charging ousted Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich with presiding over state government awash in political corruption.

The indictment U.S. Attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald is expected to produce would replace a complaint charging Blagojevich with plotting to trade or sell President Barack Obama's former U.S. Senate seat and a host of other corruption.

While timing of grand jury meetings is never disclosed, tomorrow is believed to be the last before a Tuesday dead-

line for the complaint to be replaced.

Fitzgerald could ask U.S. District Court Chief Judge James E. Holderman for an extension, but all signs point to an imminent indictment.

"We're just hours away from a massive pay-to-play indictment against Gov. Blagojevich and possibly others," former federal prosecutor Patrick M. Collins, who sent Gov. George Ryan to prison for racketeering, said at a news conference Tuesday.

In addition to the Senate seat allegations, an affidavit accompanying the December complaint accuses Blagojevich of trying to use his political power to pressure the Chicago

Tribune to fire editorial writers calling for his impeachment.

Blagojevich, 52, denies any wrongdoing. But the Democrat's Dec. 9 arrest ended his political career. The Illinois House impeached him Jan. 9. The Senate convicted him and removed him from office Jan. 29.

Rather than brood, though, he took off on a surprise tour of national television talk shows to proclaim his innocence.

His initial chief defense counsel, Edward M. Genson, resigned, hinting Blagojevich had ignored his advice to stay quiet. Blagojevich recently signed on Genson's law partner, Terence P. Gillespie.



DAVE MARTIN | AP PHOTO

KNEE DEEP: Matt Galloway, left, and golf course superintendent Vance Langham walk through receding floodwaters that inundated the River Oaks Golf Course in Geneva, Ala.

More rain expected to hit the Gulf Coast

Jay Reeves
The Associated Press

GENEVA, Ala. — Water-logged Gulf Coast communities kept a wary eye on rising rivers and flooded roads yesterday as forecasts called for another round of rain.

The West Pearl River, already more than four feet above flood stage at about 19 feet, had emergency officials in St. Tammany Parish, La., bracing for flooding, particularly in low-lying areas. The National Weather Service said the river that forms part of the Mississippi-Louisiana state line could crest at 19.5 feet tomorrow morning, approaching a historic crest it reached in April 1983 that caused damaging flooding.

"We're not expecting significant house flooding. We're expecting significant street flooding," Parish spokeswoman Suzanne Steymiest said. "But it's hard to predict."

Another round of storms was expected in the region starting late yesterday. The National

Weather Service said rain was forecast throughout the region over the next two days, and the heaviest amount was expected in the Florida Panhandle, where some areas could see two to five inches.

However, even light rainfall could add to the woes of already-drenched areas.

"All the rivers are still so swollen that it's not going to take a lot of rain to bring them back up," said Mobile-based weather service meteorologist Jeff Garmon.

In Florida, Lynn Orr was waiting to see what happens tomorrow before continuing to rebuild a mile of trail at the shooting range he manages off the Shoal River in Okaloosa County. He had spent much of the week on a tractor restoring the trail that was washed out by previous storms, but his work was destroyed by rains on Tuesday night.

"It was about 20 hours of work the last couple of days and we are closed again today," he said.

Keith Williams, who keeps track of river flooding with the NWS office in Mobile, said there have been reports of moderate flooding in south Alabama, but nothing major. Scattered thunderstorms moved across northern Florida yesterday, causing some flooding but largely sparing major roads and buildings.

At least 10 school districts in south Georgia closed yesterday because of concerns about flooded roadways, and some schools in south Alabama opened late.

Floodwaters in Mississippi swept as many as 20 alligators out of their viewing area at the Gulf Coast Gator Ranch in Orange Grove. But owner Allan Adams said the 130-acre farm is surrounded by swamps, the gators' natural habitat, and they are not a threat to people.

Parts of the Southeast have seen nearly a foot of rainfall in recent days, and a few areas had upward of 17 inches. Scores of people were evacuated, but most have returned to their homes.

Professor defends research despite controversy

Ivan Moreno
The Associated Press

DENVER — Yesterday, a jury began deliberating a lawsuit in which a former University of Colorado professor claims he was fired for writing an essay likening some Sept. 11 victims to the Nazis' Holocaust architect, Adolf Eichmann.

The school says it fired Ward Churchill in 2007 because he plagiarized and misrepresented sources in his academic research, but he says the school was looking for an excuse after the uproar over the essay.

Churchill's attorney, David Lane, told jurors in closing arguments that Churchill was fired for criticizing the "master narrative"

of history.

University attorney Patrick O'Rourke said Churchill's firing was fair and that he is using a free speech argument to excuse his fraud.

Churchill's essay called the World Trade Center victims "little Eichmanns." It was written in 2001 but attracted little attention until 2005, when critics publicized it after Churchill was invited to speak at Hamilton College in upstate New York.

University officials said then that Churchill's remarks were protected by the First Amendment, but they launched an investigation into his scholarly writings.

University officials say the faculty committees found a pattern of research misconduct that

included plagiarism, fabricated research on Native Americans and an article Churchill wrote under someone else's name and then later cited it in support of his work.

Lane told jurors that Churchill did nothing wrong, but even if the research misconduct allegations were true, the question they must answer is whether he was fired as retribution for the Sept. 11 essay.

Churchill testified last week that he didn't mean his comments to be hurtful to Sept. 11 victims. He said he was arguing that "if you make it a practice of killing other people's babies for personal gain ... eventually they're going to give you a taste of the same thing."

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Obama's tax raise breaks promise

Calvin Woodward
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of President Barack Obama's campaign pledges on taxes went up in puffs of smoke yesterday.

The largest increase in tobacco taxes took effect despite Obama's promise not to raise taxes of any kind on families earning under \$250,000 or individuals under \$200,000.

This is one tax that disproportionately affects the poor, who are more likely to smoke than the rich.

To be sure, Obama's tax promises in last year's campaign were most often made in the context of income taxes. Not always.

"I can make a firm pledge," he said in Dover, N.H., on Sept. 12. "Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes."

He repeatedly vowed "you will not see any of your taxes increase one single dime."

Now in office, Obama, who stopped smoking but has admitted he slips now and then, signed a law raising the tobacco tax nearly 62 cents on a pack of cigarettes, to \$1.01. Other tobacco products saw similarly steep increases.

The extra money will be used to finance a major expansion of health insurance for children. That represents a step toward achieving another promise, to make sure all kids are covered.



PACKING: In this Feb. 4, 2009 file photo, tobacco workers pack boxes with Obama Presidential Series 44 cigars on a tobacco plantation at the Segovia Cigars tobacco company.

Obama said in the campaign that Americans could have both — a broad boost in affordable health insurance for the nation without raising taxes on anyone but the rich.

His detailed campaign plan stated that his proposed improvement in health insurance and health technology "is more than covered" by raising taxes on the wealthy alone. It was not based on raising the tobacco tax.

The White House contends Obama's campaign pledge left

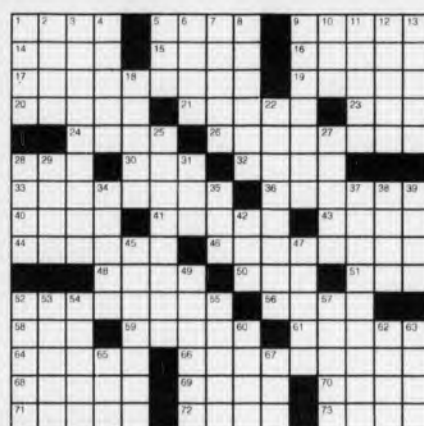
room for measures such as the one financing children's health insurance.

"The president's position throughout the campaign was that he would not raise income or payroll taxes on families making less than \$250,000, and that's a promise he has kept," said White House spokesman Reid H. Cherlin. "In this case, he supported a public health measure that will extend health coverage to 4 million children who are currently uninsured."

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ACROSS

- 1 Sailor's mop
- 5 Takes steps
- 9 Donna lead-in
- 14 Volcano output
- 15 Record spoiler
- 16 Kindled anew
- 17 Start of quip
- 19 U.A.E. rulers
- 20 Remove the rime
- 21 Break down, as a sentence
- 23 Had lunch
- 24 Accomplishes, Biblical-style
- 26 Part 2 of quip
- 28 Advanced deg.
- 30 Baloney!
- 32 Reclined
- 33 Part 3 of quip
- 36 Epistle
- 40 Isinglass
- 41 Bumpkin
- 43 Greek letter
- 44 White-collar worker?

- 46 Part 4 of quip
- 48 Amino, for one
- 50 Tango number
- 51 Sound of a leak
- 52 Part 5 of quip
- 56 Long or hot finish?
- 58 ETs' transportation
- 59 Synthetic fabric
- 61 Certain wind instruments
- 64 Overcharge
- 66 End of quip
- 68 Tapestry in "Hamlet"
- 69 Poi source
- 70 Ky. neighbor
- 71 Takes ten
- 72 Collar or jacket
- 73 Those, to Jose

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New economic stimulus aims to help schools succeed

Libby Quaid

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Education Secretary Arne Duncan yesterday released the first \$44 billion in economic stimulus money directed to schools, but said strings will be attached to the next round of aid.

The Obama administration views the stimulus as a chance not only to save thousands of teachers' jobs but to overhaul the nation's failing schools.

"This is a historic opportunity, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to lay the groundwork for a generation of education reforms," Duncan said yesterday at Doswell Brooks Elementary School in the Washington suburb of Capitol

Heights, Md.

Duncan chose the school because it has significantly boosted achievement despite high numbers of poor and special education children, a challenge that often overwhelms urban schools like Doswell Brooks.

After announcing the stimulus news in the library, Duncan visited two classrooms with Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley. They took turns reading the book "New Tricks I Can Do!" to first-graders and talked about President Barack Obama to fifth-graders.

"It's not just being president," Duncan said. "You can be smart like the president, right?"

Obama's first order of busi-

"It's not just being president...you can be smart like the president, right?"

Arne Duncan | Secretary

ness when he took office in January was passage of his economic stimulus bill, which provides an unprecedented amount of money for schools — double the education budget under President George W. Bush — over the next two years.

Yesterday, the administration made available half of the dollars for federal programs that pay for kindergar-

ten through 12th grade and special education. In addition, Duncan will provide applications for states to get money from a special fund to stabilize state and local budgets.

However, loopholes created by Congress could let states and school districts spend the money on other things, such as playground equipment or new construction. It also could let lawmakers cut state aid and replace it with stimulus dollars, leaving school districts with no additional aid as local tax revenues plummet.

Duncan said last week he will "come down like a ton of bricks" and withhold the second round of funds from anyone who defies Obama's wishes.

Unemployment rates soar to new heights

Jeannine Aversa

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Unemployment rates rose in all of the nation's largest metropolitan areas for the second straight month in February.

The U.S. Labor Department reported two days ago all 372 metropolitan areas tracked saw their jobless rates rise in February from a year earlier. Indiana's Elkhart-Goshen and North Carolina's Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton, both hammered by manufacturing layoffs, registered the biggest annual increases.

The U.S. unemployment rate rose to 8.1 percent in February, the highest in more than 25 years. Economists predict the national jobless rate will

climb to 8.5 percent in March. The government releases that report on Friday. It will probably hit 10 percent by year-end even if the recession were to end later this year, they said.

Elkhart-Goshen's jobless rate soared to 18 percent in February, up 12.5 percentage points. The area has been battered by layoffs in the recreational vehicle industry. RV makers Monaco Coach Corp., Keystone RV Co. and Pilgrim International have cut hundreds of jobs.

The jobless rate in Hickory-Lenoir-Morganton jumped to 15.7 percent, a 9.3 percentage point increase in the area located about 60 miles northwest of Charlotte. About one-third of all jobs in Hickory are at manufacturing plants, said Scott Millar, director of the Catawba County Economic Development Corp., which recruits new businesses.

"I think part of the issue we're dealing with is pure math as the nation changes into a

services oriented economy," Millar said.

The local layoffs accelerated at furniture makers and textile producers that have been shifting work to low-cost overseas producers for a decade, and at auto suppliers battered by slumping car sales. Even the fiber-optic cable manufacturers that once seemed to be the region's hope are suffering from a lack of orders. Corning Cable Systems in February said it would eliminate about 200 jobs as it shut an optical assembly plant in Hickory.

El-Centro, Calif., continued to lay claim to the highest unemployment rate — 24.5 percent. The jobless rate is notoriously high in the area, where many unemployed are seasonal agriculture workers.

Following close behind were Merced, Calif., with a jobless rate of 19.9 percent, and Yuba City, Calif., at 18.9 percent. Elkhart-Goshen rounded out the top four.



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NEWS *from* around the world

MEXICO CITY MEXICO

Try to bring a refrigerator into Mexico in your pickup and customs officials will almost certainly stop you. Hide a couple of AK-47 rifles in your trunk, and chances are you'll breeze through. Mexico launches a new program to monitor southbound vehicles.

JOHANNESBURG ZIMBABWE

Newly released images that provide a rare look inside a Zimbabwean prison show emaciated inmates too weak to stand and eating as if they can barely bring food to their mouths. Human rights activists and former prisoners have spoken of horrifying conditions in the country's jails and prisons but there has been little firsthand evidence available.



AP PHOTO

ISLAMABAD PAKISTAN

The son of a potato farmer who once worked as a fitness instructor has become one of the most powerful militant leaders in the Pakistan-Afghan border region in part because of his alliance with al-Qaida. After Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud threatened to attack Washington, suspected U.S. missiles struck his reputed hide-out, killing 14 people.



ISHTIAQ MEHSUD | AP PHOTO

JERUSALEM ISRAEL

Israel's new hard-line foreign minister delivers a scathing critique of Mideast peace efforts, telling diplomats that concessions to Palestinians only invite war. Avigdor Lieberman's comments, along with Palestinian accusations that the new Israeli government opposes peace, signal tough times ahead for the Obama administration's peace efforts.



DAVID YAAKININ | AP PHOTO

LILONGWE MALAWI

Madonna's efforts to adopt two youngsters from Malawi are drawing the paparazzi. But she isn't alone: Westerners are increasingly seeking to bring home children from Africa as traditional sources like China and Russia cut back on adoptions by foreigners.

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